CLAIMS

1.   (currently amended) ~~Device~~ A device for the preparation of data to be sent in a continuous stream to at least one receiver via a communication network, said device comprising:

[[-]] means of obtainment of said data originating from a database, said database containing at least two data stream entities for data associated respectively with different transmission throughputs [[,]] :

[[-]] means of transfer of said obtained data ~~obtained~~ to a system for sending said data as a continuous stream over said network [[,]] :

[[-]] means of connection of said means of obtainment to one of said data stream entities of the database [[,]] :

[[-]] and means of switching of the means of connection from one of said data stream entities to another of said data stream entities [[,]] :

wherein :

[[-]] said preparation device comprises means of regular addition to said data transferred to the sending system, of error correction codes so as to form an augmented data stream [[,]] :

[[-]] said means of switching being designed to switch the means of connection from a first of said data stream entities, associated with a first sending throughput, to a second of said data stream entities, associated with a second sending throughput greater than said first sending throughput, when the stream of said data transferred augmented with said added error correction codes reaches a threshold throughput equal to the sum of the second sending throughput and of an additional throughput associated with an initial input of error correction codes for said second entity [[,]] : and

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[[-]] said means of addition being designed to reinitialize the addition of said error correction codes to said initial input upon the switching of said first entity to said second entity.

2.   (currently amended) ~~Preparation~~ The preparation device according to Claim 1, wherein ~~it~~ said preparation device comprises means of automatic throughput regulation capable of reducing the quantity of said error correction codes added upon detection of risk of congestion.

3.   (currently amended) ~~Preparation~~ The preparation device according to Claim 2, wherein said means of automatic throughput regulation are designed to reinitialize to zero the addition of said error correction codes upon detection of risk of congestion.

4.   (currently amended) ~~Preparation~~ The preparation device according to claim 1, wherein said means of connection are designed to select one of said data stream entities as a function of a throughput preset modifiable over time and ~~in that~~ said means of addition are designed to be activated when said selected entity is associated with a sending throughput greater than the sending throughput of another of said data stream entities currently being sent ~~that is currently sending~~.

5.   (currently amended) ~~Preparation~~ The preparation device according to claims 1, wherein said means of obtainment are capable of obtaining at least one of said data stream entities by superimposing on another of said data stream entities at least one data stream layer available in the database.

6.   (currently amended) ~~Preparation~~ The preparation device according to claim 1, wherein said means of addition are designed such that each increment of said error correction codes added to the transferred data causes an increase in the sending throughput of said augmented data stream which is less than a

third of the difference between the second sending throughput and the first sending throughput respectively associated with the second entity and with the first entity.

7.   (currently amended) ~~Preparation~~ The preparation device according to claim 1, wherein said means of switching are capable of switching the means of connection of one of the data stream entities currently sending, associated with a nominal current sending throughput to another of the data stream entities, associated with a nominal fallback sending throughput that is lower than the current nominal throughput, upon detection of risk of congestion.

8.   (currently amended) ~~Server~~ A data server ~~of data~~, wherein ~~it~~ said server comprises a data preparation device to be sent in a continuous stream to at least one receiver via a communication network, said data preparation device comprising:

[[-]] means of obtainment of said data originating from a database, said database containing at least two data stream entities for data associated respectively with different transmission throughputs [[,]] :

[[-]] means of transfer of said obtained data ~~obtained~~ to a system for sending said data as a continuous stream over said network [[,]] :

[[-]] means of connection of said means of obtainment to one of said data stream entities of the database [[,]] :

 [[-]] means of switching of the means of connection from one of said data stream entities to another of said data stream entities [[,]] :

[[-]] means of regular addition to said data transferred to the sending system, of error correction codes so as to form an augmented data stream [[,]] :

[[-]] said means of switching being designed to switch the means of connection from a first of said data stream entities, associated with a first sending throughput, to a second of said data stream entities, associated with a second sending throughput greater than said first sending throughput, when the stream

of said data transferred augmented with said added error correction codes reaches a threshold throughput equal to the sum of the second sending throughput and of an additional throughput associated with an initial input of error correction codes for said second entity [[,]] ; and

[[-]] said means of addition being designed to reinitialize the addition of said error correction codes to said initial input upon the switching of said first entity to said second entity.

9.   (currently amended) ~~Server~~ The server of data according to Claim 8, wherein ~~it~~ said server is designed to send data over an IP network, in accordance with the RTP and UDP protocols utilized jointly.

10.   (currently amended) ~~Method~~ A method for the preparation of data to be sent in a continuous stream to at least one receiver via a communication network, ~~according to which~~ comprising the steps of :

[[-]] obtaining said data originating from a database ~~are obtained~~, said database containing at least two data stream entities for data associated respectively with different transmission throughputs, by extracting said data from one of said data stream entities [[,]] ;

[[-]] transferring said obtained data ~~obtained are transferred~~ to a system sending said data as a continuous stream over said network[[,]] ;

[[-]] ~~and there is a switch~~ switching from one of said data stream entities to another of said data stream entities to obtain said data[[,]] ;

wherein said method further comprises :

[[-]] adding error correction codes ~~are added~~ regularly to said data transferred to the sending system, so as to form an augmented data stream[[,]] ;

[[-]] ~~there is a switch~~ switching from a first of said data stream entities, associated with a first sending throughput, to a second of said data stream entities, associated with a second sending throughput greater than the first

sending throughput, when the stream of said data transferred augmented with said added error correction codes reaches a threshold throughput equal to the sum of the second sending throughput and of an additional throughput associated with an initial input of error correction codes for said second entity[[,]] ;_and

[[-]] reinitializing the addition of said error correction codes to said initial input is reinitialized when switching from said first entity to said second entity.

11.   (currently amended) Computer A computer program product medium comprising program code instructions for the execution of the steps of the a method for the preparation of data to be sent in a continuous stream to at least one receiver via a communication network, when said program code is executed on a computer, wherein said method comprises the steps of:

[[-]]obtaining said data originating from a database are obtained, said database containing at least two data stream entities for data associated respectively with different transmission throughputs, by extracting said data from one of said data stream entities[[,]] ;

[[-]] transferring said obtained data obtained are transferred to a system sending said data as a continuous stream over said network[[,]] ;

[[-]] and there is a switch switching from one of said data stream entities to another of said data stream entities to obtain said data[[,]] ;

and wherein said method further comprises:

[[-]] adding error correction codes are added regularly to said data transferred to the sending system, so as to form an augmented data stream[[,]] ;

[[-]] there is a switch switching from a first of said data stream entities, associated with a first sending throughput, to a second of said data stream entities, associated with a second sending throughput greater than the first sending throughput, when the stream of said data transferred augmented with said added error correction codes reaches a threshold throughput equal to the

sum of the second sending throughput and of an additional throughput associated with an initial input of error correction codes for said second entity[[,]] : and

[[-]] reinitializing the addition of said error correction codes to said initial input is reinitialized when switching from said first entity to said second entity.

12.   (currently amended) Server The data server according to Claim 8, wherein that it said server is a server of video data.

13.   (currently amended) Method The method according to claim 10, wherein said method is designed to be implemented by means of a device for the preparation of data to be sent in a continuous stream to at least one receiver via a communication network, said device comprising:

[[-]] means of obtainment of said data originating from a database, said database containing at least two data stream entities for data associated respectively with different transmission throughputs[[,]] :

[[-]] means of transfer of said obtained data obtained to a system for sending said data as a continuous stream over said network[[,]] :

[[-]] means of connection of said means of obtainment to one of said data stream entities of the database[[,]] :

[[-]] means of switching of the means of connection from one of data stream said entities to another of said data stream entities[[,]] :

[[-]] means of regular addition to said data transferred to the sending system, of error correction codes so as to form an augmented data stream[[,]] :

[[-]] said means of switching being designed to switch the means of connection from a first of said data stream entities, associated with a first sending throughput, to a second of said data stream entities, associated with a second sending throughput greater than said first sending throughput, when the stream of said data transferred augmented with said added error correction codes

reaches a threshold throughput equal to the sum of the second sending throughput and of an additional throughput associated with an initial input of error correction codes for said second entity[[,]] ; and

[[-]] said means of addition being designed to reinitialize the addition of said <u>error correction</u> codes to said initial input upon the switching of said first entity to said second entity.